Provident Fund Commissioner (Gr. I) were given extension for six months each.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Export of Wool And Woollen Items

*95. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have devised any plan to raise the exports of wool and woollen items; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) The Plan for raising the export of woollen items is to expand the production base, to diversify the markets and to diversify the product range.

Export of Readymade Garments to Europe

*96. SHRI E. BALANANDAN:
SHRI MD. SALIM:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has greater prospects of export of readymade garments to European community countries this year; and

(b) if so, what are the plans of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) India's garment exports to European Economic Community have shown improvement in 1992 as compared to 1991 notwithstanding the recessionary conditions prevailing in the European Economic Community market. It is expected that during 1993, there will be further improvement. The establishment of single European Community (EC) market from 1st January, 1993 is also likely to contribute positively to our export performance.

Loss in Jute Market

*97. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the Indian Express dated the 25th January, 1993 under the caption 'India on the brink of lossing Rs. 100-crores in Jute Market' stating that India is on the brink of losing 75 per cent of the world sacking market in jute if Government do not take steps to lobby the cause of jute entrepreneurs in the international market; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The capability of the jute industry in India to manufacture and supply non-toxic jute bags has been publicised in various fora including the meetings of the International Jute Organisation in order to capture the market for packaging of foodstuffs.

Private sector Participation in Distribution of Coal

*98. SHRI P. UPENDRA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently allowed private sector in coal as a part of the new distribution scheme;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the extent upto which the consumers would be benefited and the middlemen would be eliminated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL